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FILE ONLY

Student groups protest CIA recruitment at Yale

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About 50 students demonstrated peacefully Wednesday outside Yale University's Career Services, while representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency conducted interviews inside with students seeking to become CIA agents.

The protesters marched in a circle outside the 1 Hillhouse Ave. building carrying signs that read, "The CIA: Yale's Bloodiest Alumni Club," "Keep The Contras Off This Campus" and "The CIA Discriminates."

Speakers at a rally decried the CIA's alleged refusal to hire homosexuals and the CIA's involvement in Central America.

The issue of CIA recruitment at Yale erupted last year when six members of the CIA-out Coalition were arrested by New Haven police after they disrupted a CIA interview at Career Services. Criminal charges were subsequently dropped against the students, whom Yale placed on probation.

Several of the students who were arrested last year were present at Wednesday's protest, in addition to three uniformed Yale security officers.

"We feel somewhat restricted in our ability to act as political beings but we're not concerned. We're not going to do anything illegal," said Alan Minsky, 20, a junior from St. Louis, Mo., who said his term of probation expires at the end of the year.

He attributed the failure of the CIA to hold a general informational meeting on campus this year to last year's protest. Minsky said about 45 Yale students signed up for interviews by the CIA.

Career Services Director Susan Hauser could not be reached for comment.

For the first time, several campus groups came together this year for the protest, including the Gay and Lesbian Rights Cooperative, the Yale Law School chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, the Coalition Against Apartheid and the Black Student Alliance at Yale.

Yale junior Kit Winter, 20, of New Haven, a coordinator for the Gay and Lesbian Rights Cooperative, said he met with Hauser last week and was given "essentially the runaround."

He said Hauser contended Yale's federal funding would be at risk if it disallowed CIA recruitment on campus and that it is not Yale's responsibility to determine if the CIA is morally suitable to engage in recruitment.

Yale sophomore Sarah Pettit, 19, of London, said the CIA's presence on campus violates a Yale policy against discrimination. Pettit claimed the CIA refuses to hire homosexuals because they could be blackmailed.

"The CIA does not belong on a university campus and Yale should not give space to it," Pettit said.

Jonathan Piper, 25, a second-year law student at Yale and member of the National Lawyers Guild, charged that CIA operations violate Yale policy, U.S. law and international law.

Yale freshman Abel Halpern, 18, a representative of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, contended, "The CIA does everything in our name ... Therefore, the blood is on our hands."